

IN THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for treating hepatic **primary biliary** cirrhosis or bile duct disappearance syndrome **caused by an immunological mechanism** comprising the step of administering a Fas antagonist to a patient in need thereof, and inhibiting apoptosis mediated by Fas.

9. (cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said Fas antagonist is a substance which suppresses binding between Fas and Fas ligand.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said Fas antagonist is a Fas derivative.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said Fas antagonist is a polypeptide which inhibits Fas-mediated apoptosis and which is selected from the group consisting of extracellular domain of Fas, a truncated form of the extracellular domain of Fas, a truncated form of a Fas which is

deleted in the transmembrane domain and a chimeric protein comprising said polypeptide and an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said Fas antagonist is an anti-Fas ligand antibody.

14-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing and treating bile duct disappearance syndrome which comprises the step of administering a Fas antagonist to a patient in need thereof and inhibiting apoptosis mediated by Fas.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for treating ~~hepatic~~ **primary biliary** cirrhosis which comprises the step of administering a Fas antagonist to a patient in need thereof and inhibiting apoptosis mediated by Fas.